



FEBRUARY 12, 2010 – FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Bringing You Good News

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 14

Timely Tidbits ...**Romulus School Board To Consider Possible Millage Proposals**

A Study Session to be held by the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education on February 17 will focus on possible ballot language proposals for the annual school election on May 4.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will take place at the district's administrative office (36540 Grant Road) at 5 p.m.

Five Will Compete for Two School Board Seats

The Romulus City Clerk's Office reports that five candidates have filed to run for a seat on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education on May 4. They are:

- Theresa Beard (currently serving as an appointee to replace Celeste Roscoe, who was elected to City Council last November)
- Tanya Cofield
- Kenneth Mientkiewicz (incumbent)
- Keith Bernard Miller
- John Thiede

Taylor Police Arrest Two in Jewelry Scam

A man and woman have been charged in connection with a scheme that involved switching real diamond jewelry for fakes at an area department store, according to Detective Lieutenant Mary Sclabassi of the Taylor Police Department.

Police responded to Southland Mall at about 5 p.m. on January 25, when store security staff allegedly observed the couple at a jewelry counter, switching earrings valued at \$4,000 with fake diamonds. The suspects were apprehended as they tried to leave the mall.

Jennifer Christy Clemente, 29, of Farmington Hills, and Joshua Ryan Allen, 30, of Rochester Hills, were arraigned on one count of larceny by conversion in 23rd District Court in Taylor. Bond was set at \$50,000/10% on each.

No trial date has been set.

The couple are also suspected in similar scams in eight other cities. □

Historical House on Sale for \$1

This historic brick home on Northline Road in Taylor is being offered for sale for just \$1 – with strings attached.

One of Taylor's first brick homes – built in 1926 – is being offered for sale by the City for just \$1.

The catch? The buyer must agree to move the home from its current location at 21528 Northline Road no later than May 31, 2010.

The 2,110-square-foot, two-story, Arts and Crafts-style home is part of the federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which allows the City to acquire foreclosed-upon homes, and either remodel/repair and sell the dwellings or demolish them.

Patrick Depa, Taylor's Community and

Economic Development coordinator, said that if the home does not find a buyer, the City will tear it down in the spring.

But Taylor officials hope it doesn't come to that. They want to find a buyer who will relocate the four-bedroom/two-bath house – which, Depa admits, "needs some work."

The vacant property would then become part of the southern border of Heritage Park.

"Once the building is moved, the current basement walls, floor, and footings must be demolished and removed," Depa said. "The basement must be backfilled, and the property will be graded and seeded. Then it will be integrated into the park."

All work performed at the location would follow federal, state, local, and Environmental Protection Agency regulations, he added.

While the 84-year-old home is not part of a historical registry, it is one of the Taylor's oldest homes. Depa said the City considered moving the home into the historic village portion of Heritage Park, but cannot afford it.

"We would prefer to see it reused rather than demolished," Depa said. "But, at the end of the day, we may have to demolish it if we can't find someone to take it."

Depa believes the home may be of interest to a nearby resident who can appreciate the old Arts and Crafts-style home, and would want to preserve it and stay in Taylor.

"It is classic early 20th-century architecture," he said. "And the price is right."

Anyone interested in moving the home to a new location should contact Depa at 734-374-1352. □

Hopgood Seeks State Senate Seat

Hoon-Yung Hopgood

Former State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) has announced that he is seeking the Democratic nomination for State Senate in the 8th District this fall.

Senator Raymond E. Basham (D-Taylor), who currently holds the seat, will be leaving at the end of the year due to term limits.

"After talking with a lot of people, receiving an enormous amount of encouragement and some early endorsements, I know that I can build the broad base of support that I will need for this year's election," Hopgood said.

Hopgood cites "jobs and the economy" as the major issues in this year's election.

"People need jobs; they need opportunity and hope," he explained. "Working families need someone who is on their side. They need an advocate now more than ever."

"However," he added, "we must also educate our children and protect the most vulnerable among us during these difficult economic times."

Hopgood points to his experience, track record, and electability as key strengths in his candidacy. He served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 2003 to 2008 for the full three terms allowed under term-limits.

The 8th Senate District includes Hopgood's former House District communities of Taylor and Romulus, as well as Allen Park, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Riverview, Southgate, Wayne, and Wyandotte. □

Guest Commentary

Romulus Schools To Host Town Hall Meeting

By Carl J. Weiss, Superintendent, Romulus Community Schools

The Romulus Community Schools Board of Education is inviting interested members of our community to attend a Town Hall Meeting to hear ideas about how we may redesign our school district.

Like many districts across Michigan, the Romulus Community Schools struggles with two challenges: inconsistent/inadequate funding from Lansing and declining enrollment. Your Board members are working very hard to ensure that, despite these challenges, the Romulus Community Schools will continue to meet the educational needs of our community. The fact remains, however, that our community is significantly smaller than it was five years ago. Because our public schools are here to support today's community, they must continue to change and adapt if we are to effectively meet our educational needs while using our financial resources wisely.

A Redesign Committee comprised of district and building administrators, teachers and support staff, union leadership,

Board of Education members, and parents met over a span of three months to review the district's current K-12 configuration, building usage, and course offerings, and then explore ways to make our educational program stronger with the resources that we have available. The outcome of this project is a list of recommendations that will be shared at the Town Hall meeting.

Prior to making any decisions on how to redesign the school district, our Board wants to hear public reaction to the Redesign Committee's suggestions. By taking this opportunity to hear the recommendations and share your opinions with our school board and district administrators, you will do your part to make sure that the next steps the district takes will continue to meet our children's educational needs.

The Town Hall Meeting will be held at Romulus Middle School (37300 Wick Road) on Thursday, February 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Your ideas and opinions matter! Please consider attending this important meeting to help us meet your needs. □

Letter to the Editor

Crout: Laptops Are a Want, Not a Need

To the Editor:

It has been brought to my attention that the Romulus City Council will be voting on laptop computers for themselves.

When I was a Council member, we had two study sessions concerning this same topic. Our then-Clerk, Linda Choate, brought the Council information on the cost of producing paper information packets. When I found out what the cost was, I spoke up against getting laptop computers. The cost was \$1.59 per packet, times seven Council members, equaling \$11.13 per meeting. Multiplying that figure by 36 meetings per year produces a total annual cost of \$400.68. Adding the cost of delivering the packets – 52.8 gallons of gas times \$2.50 per gallon, or \$132 per year – brought the total annual cost of producing paper Council packets to \$532.38. Even allowing for inflation, it would be less than \$600 per year for paper packets.

With residents losing their jobs, taking benefit cuts, and losing their homes, this is not the time to spend tax dollars on something we don't need. The City has run on paper packets for over 40 years.

I have been told that switching to laptops will save trees. I have been told that it's time to get into the 21st century. I believe that the cost of the laptop computers and software will be approximately \$13,000. Every three to four years, they will have to

be replaced. There's no way this would be a money saver for the City. These laptops are a want, not a need. The problem is, when you want something bad enough, you can make up enough excuses to justify having it – but that doesn't make it right.

It wasn't feasible before, and now, when the City is in financial trouble, and taxpayers are being asked to bail the City out, we shouldn't be spending money on unnecessary purchases. When I was on the Council, I heard from a number of residents who stated that their property taxes are too high, and they can't afford to live in Romulus.

Some surrounding cities and townships have larger budgets than ours, but they continue to use paper packets. Those still using paper packets include Taylor, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Wayne, Huron Township, Inkster, Garden City, Brownstown Township, Allen Park, Melvindale, and Southgate. Lincoln Park has no laptops, either, but they do offer both electronic and paper packets. Even our school district, which has a budget of over \$40 million, uses paper packets.

Before our Council votes "yes" on laptops, I hope they remember that they're going to be asking the taxpayers for a property tax increase. Is this how they want to spend our tax dollars?

Harry Crout
Romulus □

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Guest Commentary

Three Hundred Men in Black

By Reverend Arthur C. Willis, pastor,
Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church

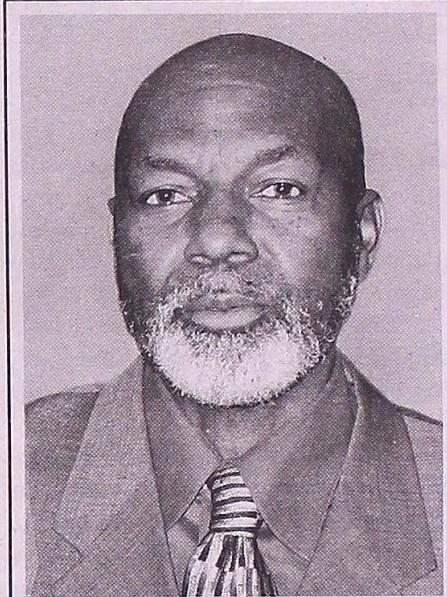
Have you ever been convicted by your own soul? Well, it happened to me. You see, I really enjoy high school basketball. It helps me to take my mind off all of the things that I have to deal with daily. Basketball is my way out, and Romulus is one of my favorite teams.

I was at the game the other night, and I saw all the men – young and old – coming to the game. They were cheering on their team. I wonder if they would cheer the same for the one that watches over their soul.

So many times, we get caught up with what we like as men, and we forget to give our sons spiritual values. We take them to practice, but not to church. I challenge each of you who read this article to attend someone's church with your son and cheer on our Lord.

When I think about what is going on in the world, especially in Haiti, and how God has kept us from so much, I believe we should give The Lord a little of our time. I am encouraging you to attend a church of your choice and take your family with you.

At Pentecostal, we will begin a week-long prayer vigil that will run from Monday, February 15, through Sunday, February 21. On Sunday, we will hold a special



Reverend Arthur Willis

spiritual service: 300 Men in Black. Our goal is to have 300 men in church for the 11 a.m. service. I am asking you to get into The Lord's game and join in by cheering for The Lord this particular Sunday.

Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church is located at 35625 Vinewood (off Wayne Road between Ecorse & Van Born roads) in Romulus. For more information, or for a ride, call me at the church: 734-728-1390.

The ball is in your court. □

City Officials Honor Romulus Boy Scouts



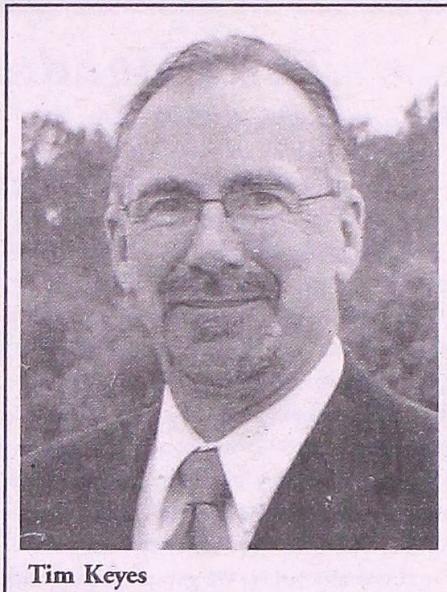
As Boy Scouts of America celebrates its 100th year, members of Boy Scouts Troop 872 and Pack 808 of Romulus were recognized by City Council on February 8 for their longtime contributions to the community. Troop 872 Scoutmaster Tom Kuderik (back, far left) noted that, in the past 12 years, his troop has produced 10 Eagle Scouts, performed thousands of hours of community service, and had 99% of its members go on to college to study subjects as diverse as engineering, culinary arts, business, music, graphic arts design, and oceanography. Eagle Scout and other community-service projects have included work on the historic Kingsley house, donations to the Mott Children's Hospital Pediatric Cancer Center, beautification of local parks, and numerous food/toy drives and fund-raisers. For more information about becoming a Boy Scout, contact Kuderik at 734-941-3910. Photo by R. E. Kadau

Southern Wayne Regional Chamber Honors Romulus Economic Chief

Tim Keyes, Economic Development director for the City of Romulus, has received the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber's prestigious 2009 Image Award, which he called a tribute to the perseverance, tenacity, and innovation of people in the Downriver region.

"I'm honored to receive this award, which is really a reflection of businesses, families, and communities across southern Wayne County, who have stood strong and bounced back, time and time again, in these tough economic times," he said.

"Downriver folks have taken it on the chin – and, every time, we get back up, we dust off the dirt, and we find new ways to re-invent ourselves and move forward," Keyes continued. "These are stories that must be told because it's not just the story of our community, but also the story of Michigan and how we can compete once again in today's global economy. I'm proud that I have the privilege to tell these terrific Downriver stories, and let the world know what a great place it is to live, work, invest



Tim Keyes

in, and raise a family."

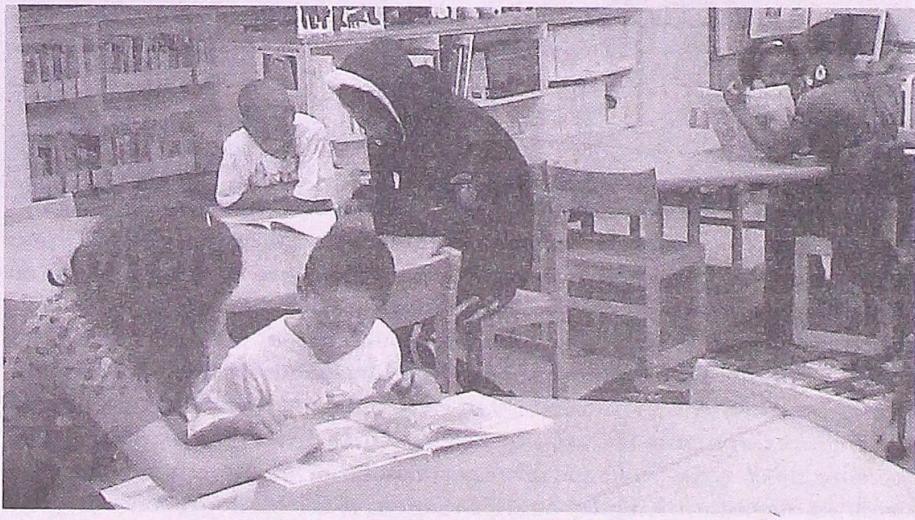
The Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber's Image Award recognizes an individual or business that actively promotes a positive image of southern Wayne County. □

APA, St. John's Lodge Celebrate King Day



Among the proud participants in the Romulus community's annual walk from Cory Elementary School to Romulus High School in celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were members of the American Progressive Association and St. John's Lodge #44. APA participants included Harry and Sandra Crout, Keenan Brown, and Marie Butler. Among those representing St. John's Lodge were David Jones, Ezell Wooden, Harry Anderson, Alonzo Greer, Malcolm Williams, and Durrice Green.

Interact Members Read to Cory Students



Romulus High School students involved in Interact – a Romulus Rotary service club for young people – have been reading to Cory Elementary second-graders to help them increase their reading fluency and comprehension skills.

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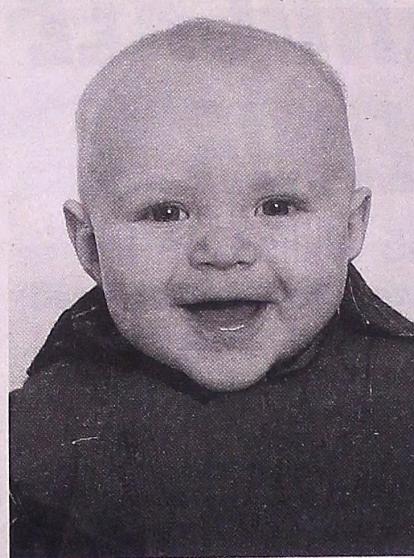
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Beautiful Baby Contest Ends in Tie



Trenton Klopfenstein



Cora Dean

Even a real-life judge couldn't decide between the two finalists in the second annual Rosecrans Picture Perfect Photography Beautiful Baby Contest.

As a result, Trenton Lawrence Klopfenstein of Taylor and Cora Dean of Wyandotte were named the most beautiful babies of 2010. Trenton, who is six months old, is the son of Crystal Norman and Kenneth Klopfenstein. Cora, age 3½, is the daughter of Michael and Caryn Dean.

"Each and every child was a winner in my eyes," said Mary Rosecrans, owner of the sponsoring studio and flower shop in Taylor's Heritage Park (12405 Pardee Road). "Even the judges had a difficult time."

Eleven babies were entered in the contest. Three judges – Taylor Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand, Southgate Mayor Joseph Kuspa, and Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Richard B. Halloran, Jr. – looked over the babies' photos and voted a tie between Trenton and Cora. Judge James Kandreas of the 28th District Court was summoned to break the tie.

"He simply couldn't do it," Rosecrans said. "They were simply too cute. The contest ended in a hung jury."

Both Trenton and Cora received a \$250 savings bond, a full modeling shoot, and 50 4-by-6-inch prints, and will be featured on the walls of the photo studio. □

Basham Announces Grant for Paralyzed Vets

State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) has announced that some of Michigan's disabled veterans will be receiving financial assistance to improve accessibility to their homes. Edward Rose Associates, LLC, has donated \$338,143 to Paralyzed Veterans of America to help veterans in seven states.

According to Basham, the gift is designated to help disabled veterans with eliminating architectural obstacles in

their homes. The grants, administered by the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) National Office, are limited to a maximum of \$20,000 per veteran.

Any disabled Michigan vet who wishes to apply for this grant should contact the PVA National Office at 800-424-8200, and ask for Veterans Benefits Department K.

For information on the Michigan PVA, go to www.michiganpva.org. □

Free Help with College Financial Aid Forms

Financial-aid experts and volunteers will be available to guide students through each step of completing and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during various College Goal Sunday programs, to be held on February 14 from 1 to 4 p.m.

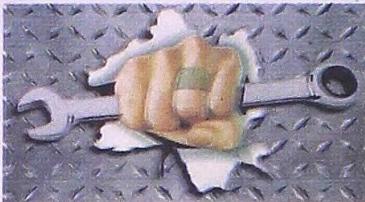
Students under 23 years of age are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian. Each student should bring his/her family's completed 2009 IRS 1040 tax return (if possible) or W-2 and 1099 forms.

Hosting the event will be 29 sites across Michigan, including three located

in the Metro Detroit area (see below). For additional information about the event, visit www.micollegegoal.org.

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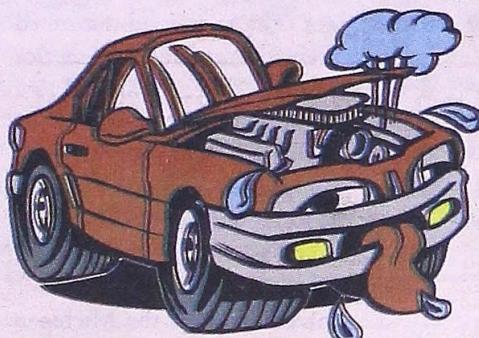
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Allison Is Chamber's Person of the Year



Julie Allison's surprise was apparent when it was announced that she had been chosen as the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce "Person of the Year" for 2010. Her husband, Romulus Fire Chief David Allison (left), was among those on hand to share the moment. Photo by R. E. Kadau

By Mark Lewkowicz, member, Chamber Board of Directors

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce has selected Julie Allison to be the 25th "Romulus Person of the Year." She will be honored at a reception that will take place at the Crowne Plaza (8000 Merriman Road, Romulus) on Friday, April 23.

Julie was selected for the honor because of her contributions to the community of Romulus.

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year Committee made the announcement at its membership luncheon on January 25. Julie was totally surprised as she was called up to the podium. Her husband, Dave Allison, was in attendance. As an extra surprise, Julie's mother, Jenny Meritt, entered the back door of the meeting room just as the announcement was made.

Julie is the vice-president of operations for Airlines Parking, Quik Park, and U.S. Park, all of which are located in Romulus. A graduate of Addison High School in Addison, Michigan, she furthered her education by obtaining a certification in hos-

pitality management. She attended the Thad M. Green Hospitality School in Atlanta, Georgia, through Choice Hotels.

Julie's husband, Dave, is a Romulus High School graduate and Chief of the Romulus Fire Department. The couple met when Dave would stop for lunch at the Comfort Inn, where Julie was employed at the time. They reside in the Romulus.

Some of Julie's volunteer activities are related to the Romulus Fire Department. In 2009, she served on a committee that resurrected the Firemen's Ball after a 10-year absence. The dinner-dance was geared to a Sweetest Day theme. All who attended had a good time, and the event raised \$3,300 for the Romulus Goodfellow organization's "No Child Without a Christmas" program.

For several years, Julie has helped many needy families by personally donating money or gifts to them. She has also helped families who have been affected by fires.

One of the annual events of which Julie is in charge is a "Tea Party" that is held at the Romulus Senior Center. This event

continued on page 9

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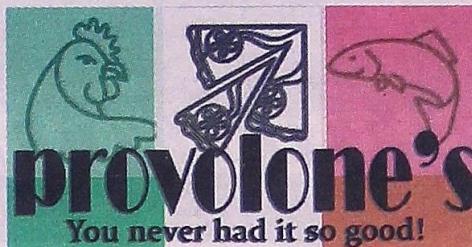


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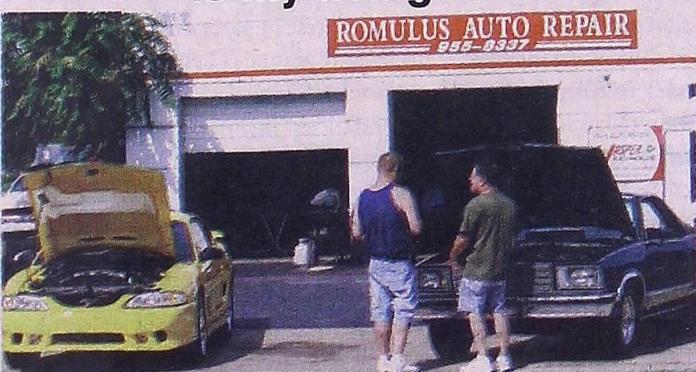
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That's not just talk.
I CAN back it up!



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Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to *the little paper* at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, February 19.

Belleville

Community Sale

South Middle School (45201 Owen Street) will hold its Mid-Winter Community Sale – an event featuring craft items, mom-to-mom stations, and much, much more – on Saturday, February 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rent tables (\$10 each) to sell just about anything you want!

Registration forms are available at the school or online at <http://sites.google.com/site/smsptso/south-middle-school-ptso-2>.

To donate items for the fund-raiser, contact smsptso@live.com for pickup and drop-off locations.

New Boston

Polish Dinner Fund-raiser

Willow United Methodist Church (36925 Willow Road) is holding its third annual Polish Dinner fund-raiser on Saturday, February 13, starting at 5 p.m., and continuing while food lasts. Carry-outs will be available beginning at 4:30 p.m.

A suggested donation of \$10 for adults/ \$6 for children 12 and under covers a delicious meal of pierogi, stuffed cabbage, "city chicken," sauerkraut and kielbasa, potatoes, dessert, and beverage.

For information, call Pastor Mark at 734-654-9020.

Nursery Accepting Registration for Tots Program

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery – a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory preschool for children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years – is now accepting registrations for its "Just You & Me" tots program. The school is located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street).

Cost is \$50 for the eight-week session, which will meet from 10 to 11:15 a.m. each Saturday beginning March 3.

For information, call 734-753-5978 or visit www.huroncountryside.com.

Romulus

Free Tax Preparation Service

The Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins Street) is offering a free tax-preparation service for residents with low incomes and those who are age 60 and older. Volunteers trained by the IRS will be available by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Friday through April 14.

Participants should bring all of the following (relevant) documents: last year's

tax returns; forms W-2, SSA-1099, and 1099-R; statements of 401 income and unemployment compensation; child-care expense information; forms indicating income tax paid; and receipts/canceled checks (if itemizing deductions).

Call 734-955-4120 for information.

Make a College Connection!

Future college students and their parents won't want to miss this event, to be held at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road) on Saturday, February 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. It's a great opportunity to connect with representatives from various colleges as well as vocational and military schools.

A sample of participating institutions includes Baker College, Eastern Michigan University (Aviation), Grove City College, Henry Ford Community College, ITT Technical Institute, Lawrence Tech University, Madonna University, Michigan State University, Northwood University, Ohio State University, University of Michigan, and University of Phoenix.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Airport Authority's Conway To Speak at Chamber Luncheon

Michael Conway, Public Affairs director for Wayne County Airport Authority, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's next business luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, February 16, at the Clarion Hotel (8600 Merriman Road). Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m.; lunch at noon.

Cost is \$15 for Chamber members; \$18 for nonmembers.

For reservations, call 734-893-0694 or e-mail info@romuluschamber.com.

All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry

St. Aloysius Catholic Church (37200 Neville Street) will hold all-you-can-eat Lenten fish fries from 4:30 to 7 p.m. each Friday from February 20 through March 26.

Dinner includes your choice of baked or fried fish, macaroni & cheese, seasoned potatoes or French fries, green beans, cole slaw, dinner roll, dessert, and beverage.

Recommended donation is \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children 4 to 10. Children 3 and under eat free (with adult purchase). Three-piece carry-out dinners are \$8 each.

For information, call 734-941-5056.

Chamber Bowling Night

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Bowling Night at Lodge Lanes (South I-94 Service Drive, Belleville) on Saturday, February 20, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. (Registration will begin at 7:30 p.m.)

A cost of \$40 per couple (\$20 per person) covers three games of 9-Pin No-Tap

Bowling, mystery games, pizza, and door prizes. Cash bar and 50/50 raffles will also be available.

This event is known to sell out, so be sure to get your tickets early! For information, call 734-893-0694 or send an e-mail to info@romuluschamber.com.

Soul Food Dinner Planned

The annual Community Soul Food Dinner, a joint program of Romulus Middle School and the Romulus Ministerial Alliance, will be held at Romulus Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga Road) on Wednesday, February 24, at 6 p.m. Highlights of the event – open to everyone – include a meal featuring traditional dishes and served by local politicians, business people, ministers, and other community leaders.

This year's program, with its theme of "Giving Back," will recognize the city's African-American legends. Entertainment will be provided by Romulus High School's Jazz Band and various church groups.

Although there is no charge to attend the event, those who are able are asked to make a donation to the RMS Student Activity Fund.

For information, call Romulus Middle School at 734-532-1703 or Reverend Rita Talley, event coordinator, at 734-595-6330 (evenings).

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in for discussion and refreshments.

Books planned for discussion include:

- *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain (March 8),
- *The Wailing Wind* by Tony Hillerman (April 12),
- *Darker Than Night* by Tom Henderson (May 10),
- *One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd* by Jim Fergus (June 14), and
- *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen (July 12).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Roast Beef Dinner Benefits Church

Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will hold its next Roast Beef Dinner fund-raiser on Saturday, March 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, veggies, dinner roll, dessert, and beverage will be available for a donation of \$8 for adults and \$4 for children over five. Dine in or carry out!

Proceeds will be used by the Men's Club for its outreach mission ministries.

For information, call 734-941-0736.

Hypnotherapy for Smoking Cessation

A one-day hypnotherapy session for smoking cessation will be held at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road) on Saturday, March 20, at 1:30 p.m.

Cost is \$25. Preregister by Thursday, March 18.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Taylor

Registration for Taylor Soccer Leagues

Registration for the Taylor Soccer League will be held at the Taylor Sportsplex (13333 Telegraph Road) on Saturday and Sunday, February 13–14, from 12 to 5 p.m. Games will be played at Heritage Park.

Visit www.taylorsoccerleague.net for information.

Coffees

Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand is inviting constituents to take part in his new "Coffee with the Mayor" program – a series of monthly meetings, held in an informal setting, that will give residents a chance to learn more about the Mayor's plans, ask him questions, and express their concerns.

Upcoming dates/sites include:

- March 9 – LaMarina Café & Grill (22395 Goddard Road, 6 p.m.);
- April 13 – Isis Coney Island (26866 Eureka Road, 6 p.m.); and
- May 11 – Little Daddy's (22250 Eureka Road, 6 p.m.).

For information, call Mayor Lamarand's Office: 734-374-1450.

Growing Great Gardens!

Ready to get your hands in the dirt? Learn effective gardening tips and tricks? See the latest in gardening trends? Shop for tools and plants? Then this one-day event – sponsored by the Taylor Conservatory Foundation, Taylor Garden Club, and the Wayne County Community College District – is for you!

Growing Great Gardens! will feature presentations by keynote speakers Iris Lee Underwood (Yule Love It Lavender Farm) and George Papadelis (Telly's Greenhouse), as well as a choice of classes on topics such as vegetable gardening made easy, growing perennials, container gardening, creating butterfly habitats, "dog-scaping," vanquishing varmints, eco-wise gardening, and cooking with fresh herbs. Breaks will be given for shopping opportunities and a box lunch (provided). Also among the day's highlights will be door prizes, goody bags, and information about volunteer opportunities.

The event will be held at the WCCCD Downriver Campus (21000 Northline Road) on Saturday, March 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$25 for early registrants; \$30 for those who sign up after March 1.

For information and/or registration, visit www.taylorconservatory.org.

Recreation Spotlight

Teaching Experience Fostered Success Skills



Ebony Coleman

By Kristin Irwin, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks & Recreation

Ebony Coleman always strives to be successful.

A 2005 Romulus High School alumna, Coleman maintained good grades while staying involved in cheerleading and dancing. She graduated from Oakland University in 2009, and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is working on a master's degree in forensic psychology.

Coleman joined the City of Romulus Parks & Recreation Department in the fall of 2007 as an instructor of a popular hip-hop dance class. She proved to be a great

teacher, maintaining a solid class base and receiving positive reviews from students and parents. Her successful classes continued to be a Department staple until she moved to Atlanta in the summer of 2009.

In a recent interview, when asked how her experience with Parks & Recreation has influenced her life, Coleman replied, "I am very thankful to have been involved in it. Through teaching, I have gained leadership skills, boosted my confidence, and increased my communication ability. These are traits that transfer into other areas of my life, and have helped me in my studies and career."

Coleman mentioned that her sister, Alexis Paisley, has also been impacted by the Romulus Recreation Department's hip-hop dance program. As a participant, the 11-year-old Cory Elementary School student "came out of her shell, became more outgoing, and improved her self-confidence," Coleman explained.

Tanya Cofield, programs coordinator, thanked Coleman for her dedication to the City's Parks & Recreation Department.

"She is just one example of how our programs and events positively impact people throughout the community," said Cofield. "Countless memories are made and life lessons are learned through participation in our programs."

* * *

Editor's note: If you have been impacted by involvement in the City of Romulus Parks & Recreation Department, and would like to be considered for the "Recreation Spotlight" column, contact Irwin at 734-941-8665. □

Julie Allison Is Chamber's Person of the Year

continued from page 6

raised over \$5,000 for the Goodfellows last year.

Her service to the Romulus Pumpkin Festival Committee consists of soliciting advertising for the fund-raising booklet that is published each year. She also recruits volunteers to work the security detail for the annual Parade of Lights, which kicks off the Pumpkin Festival, as well as the weekend activities.

For many years, Julie has volunteered to work on the annual golf tournament hosted by the Romulus Mayor's Drug Task Force. She obtains donations and works the day of the event, doing whatever is needed.

Julie is fondly known as the Raffle Queen. If a fund-raiser is needed by any of the organizations with which she is affiliated, she has a knack of making sure it will be a success.

Some people tend to hang back for a few meetings when they are elected to the Chamber's Board of Directors. This was not the case with Julie. She immediately stepped up to the plate to serve on several Cham-

ber committees. She has a lot of good ideas that will raise money for the Chamber of Commerce. If she volunteers to be on a committee, you can depend on her to do what she says she will do.

She is also a member of the Romulus Tax Increment Finance Authority.

Julie is not the type of person who seeks public recognition for the good deeds she has done for our community. She goes about her work quietly, but diligently. She is well liked by many of the people in our community.

You can learn much more about Julie by attending the dinner on April 23. The annual event is always an interesting evening. The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., with dinner following at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$35 per person) are available in advance from the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce. A cash bar will be available, as well.

Make reservations no later than Thursday, April 15, by calling the Chamber of Commerce office (734-893-0694) or visiting www.romuluschamber.org. □

Airport Authority Boosts Small Businesses with Upcoming Opportunity Forum

Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), operator of Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP), hopes to engage the talent and resources of more local, small businesses through a Small Business Opportunity Forum to be held on Tuesday, February 23, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the L.C. Smith Building (former check-in lobby area) at DTW.

The Forum will focus on becoming a WCAA-certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE), as well as upcoming contract opportunities and proposal development techniques for SBEs.

The Small Business Opportunity Forum will kick-off with a continental breakfast, followed by testimonials from small businesses that have experienced success in providing goods and services to WCAA. Several WCAA division representatives will also share information about anticipated contract opportunities with the Airport Authority.

From 10 a.m. to noon, participants will have a chance to network with key WCAA staff members. Additionally, outside organizations that offer business support services such as insurance, bonding, and financing/lending will also be in attendance. The Forum will conclude with a workshop that includes tips on preparing quality proposals.

The Small Business Opportunity Forum builds on the Airport Authority's established Small Business Enterprise Program launched in 2008. Small businesses with headquarters in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, or Wayne counties are eligible to become WCAA SBE certified. Details may be found at <http://www.metroairport.com/business/SBEPProgram.asp>.

Space is limited, so RSVPs are encouraged by February 12. Complimentary parking will be provided to those who RSVP in advance. Call WCAA Procurement Division: 734-247-7900. □

Wedding Bells!

Emmanuel and Stefanie (Jensen) Daneker

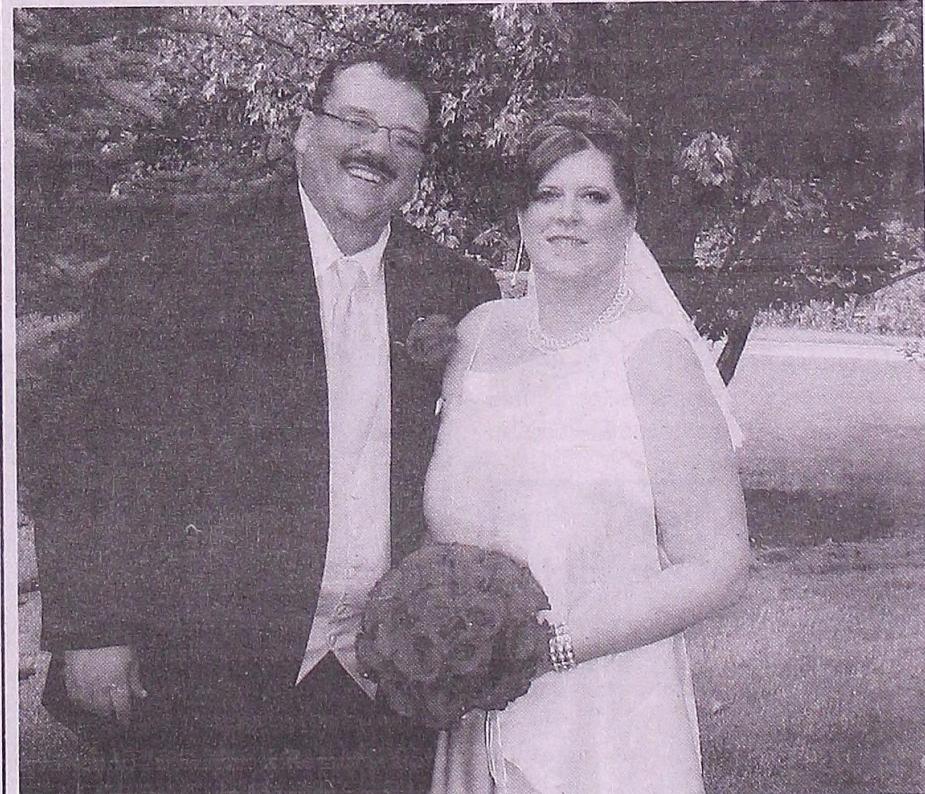
Congratulations and best wishes to Emmanuel and Stefanie (Jensen) Daneker of Romulus, Michigan, who were married on Sunday, September 27, 2009.

The couple exchanged their vows at the home of the bride's parents, Robert and Rosalita Nolff (Romulus, MI). The beautiful outdoor ceremony was performed by Stefanie's father.

Emmanuel's brother, Dave, acted as his best man. Stefanie's bridesmaids were her daughters, Rachel and Ashley; her niece, Megan, was the flower girl.

A reception at Woodlands Golf Course (Van Buren Township, MI) followed the wedding.

Emmanuel is the son of Robert and Eleanor Daneker (Belleville, MI). □



Emmanuel and Stefanie Daneker

Obituaries

Margaret Booker

Margaret Booker of Westland, Michigan, passed away on Friday, January 8, 2010, at the age of 106.

The daughter of the late Thomas and Amelia (Lauderdell) Reeves was born on Wednesday, August 26, 1903, in Rockland, Tennessee.

Margaret – a longtime resident of Romulus, Michigan – lived independently until she was 93, then spent the remainder of her days at Four Seasons Nursing Home. She was a strong advocate of education, and, after many years of work, she finally earned her high-school diploma from the Romulus Community Schools in 1978, when she was 75 years old.

Margaret believed in the power of prayer and natural health, and she saw these as the secret to her longevity. At the age of

100, she received a yellow belt in karate. She loved to bowl – even earning a trophy – and to raise chickens. While a longtime member of the Greater First Missionary Baptist Church (Inkster, MI), she served on the Usher Board.

Left to cherish her memory are friends Mary Lowrance, Earl Cornett, Tommie Butler, Aaron Butler Jr., the Alyer family, and the West family, as well as a host of church friends.

Among those who preceded her in passing were 14 siblings.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, January 14, at Greater First Missionary Baptist Church. Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Park (Canton, MI).

Arrangements were entrusted to Perry Funeral Home (Detroit, MI).

Lowell K. Johnson

Lowell K. Johnson – a former physical education teacher for the Romulus Community Schools – passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at the age of 75.

The son of the late Oscar and Vienna (Romo) Johnson was born in Negaunee, Michigan, on June 1, 1934.

Lowell graduated from Negaunee High School in 1952, and, four years later, from Western Michigan University, where he was a member of the 1955 NCAA College World Series runner-up and MAC championship baseball teams. Following graduation, he signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, but was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1957. After leaving the service, he returned to professional baseball, playing through 1959. Lowell went on to teach physical education and coach varsity baseball in Romulus, and later served as athletic director until he retired in 1987. He was inducted into the Michigan Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

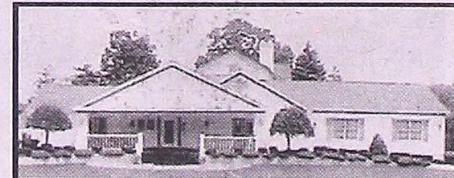
In 2007, he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with Elizabeth Anne (Powell) Johnson, whom he married on May 25, 1957.

Lowell was a member of the Elks Club and Mike Gary Athletic "W" Club of WMU. During his retirement years, he and his wife traveled throughout the United States, seeing each state capital, and also

visited several Caribbean countries. Lowell enjoyed spending time with family and friends, attending the sporting and school activities of his grandchildren, and spending time in his native UP.

Besides his wife, those surviving Lowell include 5 children, Julie (Tom) Gephart (Dundee, MI), Rick (Cyndi) Johnson (Longwood, FL), Bob Johnson (Milan, MI), Bill (Jennifer) Johnson (Milan), and Mike (Debi) Johnson (Ypsilanti, MI); 10 grandchildren, Jill (Jeff) Gerweck, Justin Gephart, and Julie, Danielle, Samuel, Holly, David, Kayla, Nicolas, and McKenna Johnson; a brother, Alan (Bonnie) Johnson (Negaunee); and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was celebrated at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (Milan) on Tuesday, February 2. Burial was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Arrangements were entrusted to Ochalek-Stark Funeral Home (Milan). Share your condolences with the Johnson family at www.ochalekstark.com. □



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ATTENTION: Residents of Romulus

If you have not yet received your 2010 City of Romulus Parks and Recreation Department calendar, please call 734-941-8665.

The City would like to thank all of the sponsors who helped to make the calendar possible. □

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Bride's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

City _____ State _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

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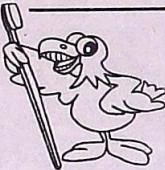
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Happy Valentine's Day!



Happy Valentine's Day
to Tara, Nina, Ashley, Draven, Tyler, Dylan, Jennifer, Kyle, Hailey, and Sydnee.
Love,
Grandma Krych



Kaila and Haile Franquist
Happy Valentine's Day to the two most important young ladies in my life! I love and miss you both very much, and am very proud of both of you.
Love,
Mom



Happy Valentine's Day
to my Mom, Luther, Sisters, Grammy, Stepdad, Family, and Friends ... and my little baby boy on the way. I'm so thankful to have you all in my life. I don't know what I'd do without you.
Love always,
Ashley



Happy Valentine's Day
to my entire Atkins/Stephens/Kreutzer/Meyers/Tagg family!
Love,
Pookie



Theresa
You are truly the love of my life. I want you to know each and every day, not just on Valentine's Day, that I love you. Thanks for putting up with me on the bad days and the good. Thankfully, with you in my life, most days are very good.
Stuart



Happy Valentine's Day
to Roger Kadau, Dave Gorgon, Louise Briody, and all the wonderful people working for the City of Romulus, the City of Taylor, and the Romulus Community Schools. Thanks for going the extra mile to make my job easier!
Kristi



Mike, Ryan, and Katie
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Grandma Joyce

Happy Valentine's Day!
Who loves you, baby?
Julie



Tommy

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Birthday (February 13)! We all miss you so much.

Love you,
Nina (xoxo)



Happy Love Day!
to all of my grandmas, grandpas, grannies, aunts, uncles, and even my mumma and D. I love you all so very much!
Love always,
Aaron-Jamison



Mickey D. Kreutzer II
Happy Valentine's Day!
I loved you before I understood what love was. You are very dear and special to me. May we have many more years to grow, explore, and love.
Love you,
Tray



Annika
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Aunt Wendi, Alex, Kyle, and Hailey



Happy Valentine's Day
Mom (Theresa Krych).
We all love you!
Debbie, Kim, Alex, Kerry, and Ron Jr.



Francesca Marie
To my beautiful granddaughter: Happy First Valentine's Day, Munchkin!
I love you with all my heart.
Hugs and Kisses,
Grandma Lemon



Happy Valentine's Day
to Noodle, Kelsey, and Myles Bramlett; Sammie, Evan, and Rissa Provost; and Colin and Gabbie Bramlet.
I love you!
Aunt Tray

Mumma
You're my best friend and a great secret-keeper. I'm glad we keep getting closer as I get older. Love you! Happy Valentine's Day!
Stephanie



Happy Valentine's Day
to all my loves!
I love you, you love me – a bipolar woman with OCD. I just want you to know that I love you, too, And I appreciate everything you do.
Love,
Lisa/Mumma/Nana/Sissy/Aunt Lee



Tommy Frazier
I love you more every day I am with you. You're one of the best things that ever happened in my life. I love you so much.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Your loving wife Patricia and baby girl Misty



Bre and Midd Kreutzer
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Daddy and Mama Tray



Happy Valentine's Day
to my kids: Jeff, Jen, Jennifer, and Gary. May Cupid shoot his arrow and hit you all with life's love and happiness.
I love you all. See you soon.
Mom



Hailey
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love you!
Mom, Dad, and Kyle



V. Ray
Happy Valentine's Day!
I will always love and cherish you.
Heather



Bob
You are still "My Bobby."
Thank you for taking care of us.
We love you.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, M and "the boys"

Countrywood Florist
WE WILL BE OPEN ON

VALENTINE'S DAY!
Sunday, February 14th
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Mon. – Fri., 9 to 6; Sat., 9 to 4

36724 Goddard Road
Downtown Romulus

734-229-1100

Christopher Talley
Wishing my handsome and hardworking husband, Christopher "Pooda" Talley, a very Happy Valentine's Day!
I love you lots,
MoeNa



Ken
Happy Valentine's Day!
Through it all, we've made it, and we'll make it again through this hurdle.
I love you now and always,
Lisa



Kaylynn
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Your Mom (Heather)



Happy Valentine's Day
to our children: Tara, Chris, Nina, Ronnie, Ashley, Amanda, and Draven.
We love you!
Dad/Ron and Mom/Debbie



Kevin
I love you so much,
I can't wait to marry you.
Happy Valentine's Day, Babe!
Love you always and forever,
Stephanie



Happy Valentine's Day
to all my sweethearts:
Tracey, John, Christopher, Ron, Mickey, Amanda, Danielle, Briana, Samantha, and Aaron.
Your Aunt Kristi loves you!